Youth Clubs/Organizations Implementation Guide

YOUR GUIDE FOR A SEAMLESS IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CONNECT FOR FREEDOM PROGRAM

CONNECT for FREEDOM
END HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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Welcome Message



Thank you for partnering with Connect for Freedom to provide youth, staff, and families with important awareness and prevention education on online exploitation and human trafficking.

This guide is designed to help your organization successfully implement the Connect for Freedom Program by providing step-by-step guidance, recommended timelines, resources, and best practices. This guide will serve as a roadmap to support a smooth and effective rollout.

Our team is committed to supporting you throughout the implementation process and is available to answer questions and provide assistance whenever needed.

We appreciate your commitment to youth safety and look forward to working with you to create a safer and more informed community.

The Connect for Freedom Team

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Role of the Director

The Director plays a critical leadership role in ensuring the successful implementation of the Connect for Freedom Program throughout the organization. By championing the initiative and providing oversight, the Director helps establish a community-wide commitment to youth safety, online protection, and human trafficking prevention education.

Director Responsibilities:

- **Present the Program to the Board**
  - Introduce and support the Connect for Freedom Program to the Board or other authority and organization's attorney. Following appropriate approval, the organization may begin the implementation process.
- **Designate a Point of Contact**
  - Appoint an organization representative who will serve as the primary liaison between the organization and the Connect for Freedom team. This individual will coordinate implementation activities, communications, and program support.
- **Verify Program Completion**
  - Upon successful completion of the Connect for Freedom Program, notify the Connect for Freedom team so that the organization may receive a Certificate of Completion.



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Role of the Point of Contact

The Point of Contact serves as the primary liaison between the organization and the Connect for Freedom team. This individual plays a key role in coordinating the implementation process, facilitating communication, and ensuring that all key staff members from their organization have the information and resources needed to successfully participate in the program.

Point of Contact Recommended Responsibilities:

- **Staff Preparation**
  - Schedule a professional development session during which staff complete a Human Trafficking 101 training selected by the organization.
  - Ensure that all staff are reminded of the organization's response protocol for situations in which a child discloses online exploitation, human trafficking, or related victimization.

- **Parent and Caregiver Engagement**
  - Parent/caregiver notification is recommended but not required. Organizations may use passive or active permission.
  - A parent/caregiver presentation is recommended but not required. The pre-recorded Connect for Freedom parent presentation may be offered in person or remotely.
  - If engaging parents/caregivers, provide the Parent Letter and additional support materials.
  - When possible, invite a law enforcement representative to attend the parent presentation and answer questions related to online exploitation and human trafficking.

- **Program Coordination**
  - Notify the Connect for Freedom team when the program is being implemented.
  - Serve as the primary point of communication between the organization and Connect for Freedom throughout the implementation process.

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Role of the Point of Contact

Point of Contact Recommended Responsibilities:

- **Staff Engagement**
  - Meet with staff members to provide an overview of the Connect for Freedom Program and discuss implementation plans. This may be conducted in-person or remotely.
    - Alternatively, organizations may choose to distribute a program implementation brief to all staff.
  - Schedule a meeting with staff members who will be implementing the program to review presentations and available resources.
  - Share the Connect for Freedom Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) with youth development professionals, staff members, security personnel, and other appropriate team members.
  - If applicable, inform counseling staff about the implementation of the program and provide links to available support resources.
  - Provide security personnel with access to supplemental human trafficking awareness materials available through Connect for Freedom.

- **Community Collaboration**
  - Notify local law enforcement agencies about the implementation of the Connect for Freedom Program.
  - Inform local hospitals and healthcare partners about the program and the possibility that youth may disclose experiences that require medical attention or support services.

- **Youth Awareness and Support**
  - Coordinate the printing and display of awareness materials and display kits at least one week prior to program implementation.

- **Ongoing Support**
  - Maintain communication with Connect for Freedom regarding implementation progress.
  - Contact Connect for Freedom whenever additional training, resources, or implementation support is needed.

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Role of the Youth Development Professionals

Youth development professionals play a vital role in the successful implementation of the Connect for Freedom Program. Through presentations and youth engagement, youth development professionals help equip children with the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize, prevent, and respond to online exploitation, human trafficking, and other safety concerns.

By creating a safe and supportive learning environment, youth development professionals encourage meaningful discussions that promote awareness, critical thinking, responsible decision-making, and personal safety.

Youth Development Professionals Responsibilities:

- **Program Instruction**
  - Deliver the Connect for Freedom presentations and educational materials to youth in accordance with the organization's implementation plan.
  - Educate K-12 youth using the presentations, videos, activities, and other instructional resources.
  - Foster age-appropriate discussions that reinforce key concepts related to online safety, exploitation prevention, healthy relationships, and human trafficking awareness.
  - Follow all organization policies and procedures regarding youth disclosures and reporting requirements.

- **Youth Engagement and Reinforcement**
  - Provide youth with opportunities to participate in enrichment and youth engagement activities that reinforce and expand upon the concepts taught within the Connect for Freedom presentations.
  - Encourage participation in awareness campaigns, classroom projects, discussions, creative activities, and other learning experiences that promote youth understanding and retention of program content.
  - Collaborate with counselors, supervisors, and other staff members when additional youth support or resources may be beneficial.
  - Utilize supplemental resources provided by Connect for Freedom to enhance youth learning and engagement.

Through their leadership, youth development professionals serve as trusted mentors who help youth build the knowledge, confidence, and awareness necessary to stay safe both online and within their communities.

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Key Steps in Timeline

Approve Program → **Staff Training & Response Protocol** → **Optional Parent/Caregiver Presentation** → **Youth Presentations & Engagement**

1. Director introduces and supports the program implementation of the Connect for Freedom Program within the organization. Following Board and attorney approval, the organization may begin the implementation process.
2. Point of contact schedules a professional development session during which staff complete a Human Trafficking 101 training selected by the organization. The organization's response protocol is reinforced during this time.
3. Point of contact may notify parents/caregivers using passive or active permission. Parent notification and the parent/caregiver presentation are recommended but not required.
4. Youth development professionals deliver the Connect for Freedom presentations and educational materials to youth in accordance with the organization's implementation plan.



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Thank you!

Thank you for your commitment to implementing the Connect for Freedom Program and helping to create a safer environment for youth, staff members, and families. Your dedication to educating young people about online exploitation and human trafficking plays an important role in protecting and empowering the next generation.

We appreciate the time, effort, and collaboration that goes into successfully implementing this program within your organization. Together, we can provide youth with the knowledge and resources they need to make informed decisions and seek help when needed.

If you have any questions during the implementation process or require additional support, resources, or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact the Connect for Freedom team at info@connectforfreedom.org.

Thank you for partnering with us in our mission to educate, empower, and protect youth.



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